

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

BIB-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 SY-05 /071 W

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R 281429Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8634

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4075

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR NL UR

SUBJECT: KORCHNOI DEFECTION

1. SOVIET CHESS GRANDMASTER VICTOR KORCHNOI JULY 27 ASKED GON FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM. KIRCHNOI WAS IN THE NETHERLANDS FOR A CHESS TOURNAMENT WHICH HE HAD JUST COMPLETED.

2. DEFECTION HAS BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY IN DUTCH PRESS AND WAS ALSO CARRIED FRONT-PAGE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUND JULY 28.

3. KORCHNOI IS CURRENTLY IN THE HANDS OF GON AUTHORITIES, WHO ARE CONSIDERING HIS QUEST FOR ASYLUM. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS TOOK UP CONTACT WITH MFA YESTERDAY WHICH WILL PROBABLY ALLOW TO SEE KORCHNOI IF SUCH A REQUEST IS MADE.

4. MOTIVES FOR DEFECTION ARE UNCLEAR. ACCORDING TO NEWS-PAPERS, KORCHNOI'S WIFE AND SON ARE STILL IN THE SOVIET UNION. THERE SEEMS TO BE A HISTORY, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, OF DIFFICULTIES KORCHNOI EXPERIENCED IN THE SOVIET UNION AS A RESULT OF CRITICISM OF ANOTHER
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SOVIET CHESS CHAMPION ANATOLY KARPOV.

5. CASE MAY PRESENT DUTCH OFFICIALS WITH SOME
DIFFICULTIES IN CONCLUDING THAT THERE ARE SUFFICIENT
GROUNDS TO ACCEPT KORCHNOI'S REQUEST FOR ASYLUM AS POLITICAL
REFUGEE BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT IN THE END GON WILL ALMOST
CERTAINLY GRANT THE REQUEST. DUTCH WILL, HOWEVER, NOT ACT
IMMEDIATELY. JUSTICE STATE SECRETARY ZEEVALKING, WHO
WOULD HANDLE THE CASE, IS NOT EXPECTED BACK FROM HOLIDAY
UNTIL AUG 9.
BROWN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL ASYLUM, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760292-0202
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: KORCHNOI DEFECTION
TAGS: PFOR, NL, UR, (KORCHNOI, VICTOR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006